



# WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT  
BOARD MEETING DATE: January 12, 2015

DATE: December 8, 2015  
TO: Board of County Commissioners  
FROM: Amber Howell, Director, Department of Social Services  
[ahowell@washoecounty.us](mailto:ahowell@washoecounty.us) 775-785-8600

THROUGH: Kevin Schiller, Assistant County Manager

SUBJECT: Recommendation to authorize the Director of Social Services to accept the Sixth Amendment of the Child Welfare Initiative Agreement with Casey Family Programs in the amount of \$45,000 (no match required) retroactive to January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016.  
(All Commission Districts).

**SUMMARY**

The Department of Social Services has been awarded year six funding for \$45,000 from the Casey Family Programs Foundation. Funding will be utilized to facilitate family reunification & permanency, reduce foster care reentries and to safely decrease incidences of emancipation. The acceptance of this award is retroactive as the Department received the Amendment in early December 2015.

**Strategic Objective supported by this item:** Safe, Secure and Healthy Communities.

**PREVIOUS ACTION**

On June 23, 2015, the Board approved acceptance of \$45,000 from Casey Family Programs for January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015.

On April 8, 2014, the Board approved the acceptance of \$45,000 from Casey Family Programs for January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014.

The Board has accepted funding from Casey Family programs annually since 2009.

**BACKGROUND**

The Department has been collaborating with the Casey Family Programs for a number of years in an effort to improve outcomes for children in foster care. The Department has initiated a variety of

AGENDA ITEM # 8F1

efforts to reduce the number of children entering into our foster care system and to work aggressively toward reunification with parents.

The Department embraces the Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) which is an approach to strengthening foster care, including kinship care, using branding and marketing principles. It is a process designed to help develop new strategies and practices to ensure that the foster or relative family caring for the child provides the loving, committed, skilled care that the child needs, while working effectively with the system to reach the child's long term goals. Other sites that have implemented QPI report measurable improvement in outcomes such as reduced unplanned placement changes, reduced use of group care, reduced numbers of sibling separation, and more successful improvements in reunification. Internal and external stakeholders are included in the "branding process" through a series of meetings to identify mutually agreed upon expectations for caregivers. In addition to the recruitment and retention strategies offered by QPI is the development of web-based training to foster and relative caregivers. Florida has a model QPI program and has developed a site that provides live web-based training to foster parents.

### **GRANT AWARD SUMMARY**

**Project/Program Name:** *Child Welfare Initiative*

**Scope of Project:** *Promote permanency planning for children in care including older children and long-staying children. The emphasis is expedited planning by supporting concurrent permanency options and targeted exit programs. Promote practices associated with shared decision making collaborations to produce a sustainable family-centered permanency plan for children.*

**Benefit to Washoe County Residents:** *Children in Washoe County entering the foster care system will find permanency quicker than in the past through changes identified, thus reducing costs of long term foster care.*

**On-Going Program Support:** *The grant does not support the costs of ongoing programs.*

**Award Amount:** *\$ 45,000.00*

**Grant Period:** *January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016*

**Funding Source:** *Casey Family Programs*

**Pass through From:** *n/a*

**CFDA Number:** *n/a*

**Grant ID Number:** *CFP# FY12-0146.06*

**Match Amount and Type:** *match not required*

**Sub-Awards and Contracts:** *None*

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The department's FY16 adopted budget included the anticipated funding of this amendment in Internal Order 20396; therefore, no budget adjustments are required.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Recommendation to authorize the Director of Social Services to accept the Sixth Amendment of the Child Welfare Initiative Agreement with Casey Family Programs in the amount of \$45,000 (no match required) retroactive to January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016.

**POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board approve Staff's recommendation, the possible motion would be to "move to authorize the Director of Social Services to accept the Sixth Amendment of the Child Welfare Initiative Agreement with Casey Family Programs in the amount of \$45,000 (no match required) retroactive to January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016".

**SIXTH AMENDMENT**  
**CASEY FAMILY PROGRAMS**  
**AND**  
**WASHOE COUNTY NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**  
**CHILD WELFARE INITIATIVE AGREEMENT**

Pursuant to Section 2.3 of their January 1, 2012 Child Welfare Initiative Agreement, as amended, (Agreement), Casey Family Programs (CFP) and Washoe County Nevada Department of Social Services enter into this Sixth Amendment to the Agreement, effective January 1, 2016 (Sixth Amendment). The Parties agree as follows:

- 1. 2016 Strategy Plan.** In 2016, the Parties shall undertake the Strategies in the 2016 Strategy Plan detailed in Attachment 5, which is hereby incorporated to the Agreement. Throughout the Term of the Agreement, the Initiative Leads shall document the Work Efforts and Initiative Strategies in the Work Plan. On a quarterly basis, the Parties shall evaluate and document the progress and impact of the Initiative Strategies and Work Efforts according to the reporting schedule in Attachment 5.
- 2. Agreement otherwise in full force and effect.** Except as specifically set forth herein, all other terms and conditions of the Agreement remain in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Sixth Amendment as of the Effective Date.

**CASEY FAMILY PROGRAMS**

By:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
David Sanders  
Executive Vice President – Systems  
Improvement

**WASHOE COUNTY NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIAL SERVICES**

By:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Amber Howell  
Director

CASEY FAMILY PROGRAMS  
AND  
WASHOE COUNTY NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
CHILD WELFARE INITIATIVE AGREEMENT

ATTACHMENT 5  
2016 STRATEGY PLAN

Strategy	Outcome	Strategy Description	Strategy Budget
Family-based Decision Supports	Safely decrease entries	Promote practices associated with shared decision-making collaborations to produce a sustainable family centered permanency plan.	\$20,000.00
	<u>Project</u>	<u>Description</u>	
	Family group / team decision-making	Implement family and youth-based ongoing decision-making policies and practices that support a shared decision-making process, which brings together everyone who cares about the child in a family group meeting to seek the collaboration and leadership of family groups in crafting and implementing plans that support the safety, permanency and well-being of their children.	
	<u>Work Effort</u>		
	Early Family Solution team meetings		

Strategy	Outcome	Strategy Description	Strategy Budget					
Services to help birth families remediate safety issues to facilitate reunification	Increase exits to reunification, and/or safely decrease exits to emancipation	Facilitate reunification and reduce reentries through timely services that educate, build and promote birth family skills and capacities for safe and permanent outcomes.	\$10,000.00					
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Project</th> <th>Description</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Birth parent mentors</td> <td>Reinforce responsibility of birth parents to meet safe care standards by promoting birth parent mentoring program.</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"> <u>Work Effort</u>                      -Foster Parent-Birth Parent Mentors                 </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Project	Description	Birth parent mentors	Reinforce responsibility of birth parents to meet safe care standards by promoting birth parent mentoring program.	<u>Work Effort</u> -Foster Parent-Birth Parent Mentors	
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<u>Work Effort</u> -Foster Parent-Birth Parent Mentors								

Strategy	Outcome	Strategy Description	Strategy Budget
Strengthen system capacity to support timely permanency	Increase timely permanency within 12 months (and within 24 months); Increase exits to permanency for children in care 2 years or longer (CFSR measures), safely decrease percentage of emancipations	Support long-term systemic goals that enable child welfare systems to provide services that are responsive, adaptive, family centered and efficient in safely increasing exits to permanency. Emphasize expedited planning by supporting concurrent permanency options and targeted exit programs. Provide resources, training and implementation practices including case reviews to directly promote permanency options for long staying youth.	\$15,000.00
<b>Project Description</b>			
<b>Project</b>		<b>Description</b>	
Permanency Round Tables		Support for Permanency Round Table (PRT) services provided by a consultants, who work with jurisdictions to identify and prioritize critical need target populations and create a personalized PRT plan that will achieve desired outcomes. Services may include consultation on PRT conceptual design, implementation of PRTs, and/or training and consultation for jurisdiction staff and other stakeholders, especially Training of Trainers (TOT).	
<u>Work Effort</u>		Permanency Roundtables	

**Quarterly Reports and CFP Funds.**

As specified in Section 4.2 of the Agreement, Payment of CFP Funds is conditioned upon CFP's receipt of quarterly progress reports. Quarterly reports shall be submitted and CFP Funds payments shall be made according to the following schedule:

Reporting Period	Report Due	Payment Date	CFP Funds
-----	-----	Upon execution of this Amendment	\$11,250
January 1 – March 31, 2016	April 15, 2016	April 30, 2016	\$11,250
April 1 – June 30, 2016	July 15, 2016	July 31, 2016	\$11,250
July 1 – September 30, 2016	October 15, 2016	October 31, 2016	\$11,250
October 1 – December 31, 2016	January 15, 2017	---	---
<b>Total CFP Funds</b>			<b>\$45,000</b>